



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

MEMORANDUM

October 16, 2002

To: Montana Educators

From: Linda McCulloch
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Subject: Regional Technical Assistance for the Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plan

Between August 15 and September 6, 2002, my staff conducted a formal "request for proposal" (RFP) process inviting Montana educators to contract with Office of Public Instruction (OPI) to provide regional technical assistance to districts developing the five-year comprehensive education plans due to this office, May 1, 2003. As a result of the RFP, fifteen regional facilitators were selected.

Each facilitator is assigned a specific region and a cohort of districts with whom to work. To meet specific district needs, training cohorts have been organized by size, region, and in some cases, location on a major interstate. Through a series of regional workshops, the assigned facilitator will work with like-districts over the next six months. When planning for regional training, all districts are encouraged to send a small team consisting of teachers and administrators, and if possible, a local trustee.

The goal of this systematic regional training is to ensure that all districts and schools in Montana receive the technical assistance necessary to complete a well-crafted and meaningful five-year comprehensive education plan by May 1, 2003. To that end, the regional facilitators will:

- ❑ Use common language and a common agenda for the workshop series to meet the Board of Public Education Accreditation Standard 10.55.601 (3) Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plan;
- ❑ Contact all districts in the assigned region encouraging these districts to participate in the training series for five-year comprehensive education plan;
- ❑ Arrange facilities and materials for the training sessions;
- ❑ Provide a regional workshop series of 12 hours helping district teams complete the five-year plan; and
- ❑ Work with OPI staff and other facilitators to help all districts develop meaningful five-year plans.

"It is our mission to advocate, communicate, educate and be accountable to those we serve." *It is our mission to advocate, communicate, educate and be accountable to those we serve.*

The facilitator assigned to your region will contact you by November 15 to discuss the schedule for the facilitated training workshops. In addition, please watch for updates on the OPI web site at www.opi.state.mt.us, click on the 5-year comprehensive education plan page.

As always the OPI staff is available to answer questions or to discuss your good ideas based on your data.

This is an exciting time in education. We are doing business differently, with a direct focus on student achievement. Although we know the challenges are great, I believe that by working together we can reach our performance target – each student will reach his/her full potential by the time they leave our K-12 system.

For more information, contact Chris Provance at 444-4436 or cprovance@state.mt.us; Al McMilin at 444-3128 or amcmilin@state.mt.us, or Linda Vrooman Peterson at 444-5726 or lypeterson@state.mt.us.

Thank you.